Energy Policy Act 2005
Title V

- Section 2606 Wind and Hydropower Feasibility Study

  "…conduct a study of the cost and feasibility of developing a demonstration project that uses wind energy generated by Indian tribes and hydropower generated by the Army corps of engineers on the Missouri river to supply firming power to the Western Area Power Administration"

Section 2606 Study Requirements

- **The study shall:**
  - Determine the economic and engineering feasibility of blending wind and hydropower generated from the Missouri River dams operated by the Army Corps of Engineers.
  - Include an assessment of the costs and benefits of blending wind energy and hydropower compared to the current sources used for firming power to Western.
  - Review historical and projected requirements for, patterns of availability and use of, and reasons for historical patterns concerning the availability of firming power.
  - Assess the wind energy resource potential on Tribal land and projected cost savings through a blend of wind and hydropower over a 30-year period.
  - Determine seasonal capacity needs and associated transmission upgrades for integration of tribal wind generation and identify costs associated with these activities.
  - Include an independent tribal engineer and a Western Customer as study team members.
  - Incorporate, to the extent appropriate, the results of the Dakotas Wind Transmission study prepared by Western.

Section 2606 continued

- **The study report shall:**
  - Provide an analysis and comparison of the potential energy cost or benefits to the customers of Western through the use of combined wind and hydropower.
  - Include an economic and engineering evaluation of whether a combined wind and hydropower system can reduce reservoir fluctuation, enhance efficient and reliable energy production, and provide Missouri River management flexibility.
  - If found feasible, recommendations for a demonstration project to be carried out by Western, in partnership with an Indian Tribal government or tribal energy resource development organization, and Western customers to demonstrate the feasibility and potential of using wind energy produced on Indian land to supply firming energy to Western, including identification of:
    - The economic and environmental costs of, or benefits to be realized through, a Federal-tribal-customer partnership.
    - The manner in which Federal-tribal-customer partnership could contribute to the energy security of the United States.